

Message Text

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53

ACTION EUR-12

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FM AMEMBASSY ANKARA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2481

INFO AMEMBASSY ATHENS

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY NICOSIA

AMCONSUL ADANA

AMCONSUL ISTANBUL

AMCONSUL IZMIR

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CINCUSAFE

USCINCEUR

USNMR SHAPE

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E.O. ,1652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR MASS TU US

SUBJ: TURKISH PRESS ON U.S.-TURKISH RELATIONS, FEB. 14-17

1. ALTHOUGH THE LOCKHEED PAYOFFS ISSUE HAS CONTINUED TO DOMINATE MOST TURKISH DAILIES (ANKARA 1208), THE PRESS IN THE LAST FOUR DAYS HAS GIVEN PROMINENT PLAY TO A NUMBER OF OTHER STORIES BEARING ON U.S.-TURKISH RELATIONS:

A. ON FEBRUARY 14 SEVERAL PAPERS REPORTED THAT PRIMIN DEMIREL, IN A CONVERSATION WITH MEMBERS OF THE PRESS THE PREVIOUS DAY, STRESSED THE NEED FOR COMPROMISE WITHIN "REASONABLE FORMULAS" IN SUCH DISPUTES AS TURKEY HAS WITH THE U.S. AND GREECE AND CONCLUDED THAT "TURKEY HAS NO (RPT NO) INTENTION OF NOT (RPT NOT) RESOLVING " SUCH UNCLASSIFIED

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DISPUTES.

B. ON FEBRUARY 15 MASS CIRCULATION GUNAYDIN CLAIMED ON THE BASIS OF AN ANKA NEWS AGENCY DISHATCH THAT ONE OF THE MOST IMPORTANT TOPICS TO BE DISCUSSED AT A FEBRUARY 19 NATIONAL SECURITY COUNCIL MEETING WOULD BE THE VISIT ON FEB. 13 OF NATO COMMANDER HAIG TO ANKARA (ANKARA 1224). ACCORDING TO GUNAYDIN, GENERAL HAIG TOLD TURKISH GENERAL STAFF CHIEF GENERAL SANCAR THAT "MAJOR PROBLEMS WOULD ARISE FOR NATO IF THE BOTTLENECK IN TURKISH-AMERICAN RELATIONS WERE NOT (RPT NOT) REMOVED". LEFTIST CUMHURIYET HEADLINED SPECULATION THAT HAIG MAY HAVE REQUESTED A POSTPONEMENT IN TURKISH MILITARY MANEUVERS SCHEDULED TO BEGIN IN THE AEGEAN FEBRUARY 26. CUMHURIYET ALSO TIED THE HAIG VISIT TO ANKARA WITH U.S. VISIT OF NATO SECRETARY GENERAL LUNS AS SHOWING NATO'S INCREASED CONCERN OVER TURKISH-AMERICAN RELATIONS.

C. CAGLAYANGIL VISIT: ON FEBRUARY 15 SEVERAL PAPERS CARRIED STORIES BASED ON AN ANKA DISPATCH THAT OPPOSITION BY THE NATIONAL SALVATION PARTY (NSP) HAD CONTRIBUTED TO THE CANCELLATION OF FONMIN CAGLAYANGIL'S VISIT TO WASHINGTON. ACCORDING TO THESE ACCOUNTS, NSP CHAIRMAN AND DEPUTY PRIMIN ERBAKAN HAD INFORMED PRIMIN DEMIREL BY LETTER THAT, AS CAGLAYANGIL'S VISIT HAD NOT RPT NOT BEEN AUTHORIZED BY THE COUNCIL OF MINISTERS, THE NSP COULD NOT RPT NOT ACCEDE EITHER TO THE VISIT OR TO ANY AGREEMENT WHICH MIGHT BE MADE DURING IT. SUBSEQUENTLY ERBAKAN'S PRESS SPOKESMAN DENIED THE EXISTENCE OF SUCH A LETTER, WHICH HE TERMED "A FABRICATION TO DISCREDIT THE GOVERNMENT". ON FEBRUARY 17, CUMHURIYET'S FRONT PAGE CARRIED A REPORT OF A "SECRET MESSAGE" SENT BY SECRETARY KISSINGER TO FONMIN CAGLAYANGIL ALLEGEDLY CALLING FOR THE SPEEDY PREPARATION OF A "FIFTY-FIVE ARTICLE BILATERAL AGREEMENT" ON TURKISH-AMERICAN DEFENSE RELATIONS. FURTHER, ACCORDING TO CUMHURIYET, CAGLAYANGIL WILL BE UNABLE TO VISIT THE U.S. BEOFRE THE "END OF MARCH" OR IN APRIL BECAUSE OF A BUSY SCHEDULE INCLUDING A "PEACE TOUR" OF SEVERAL COUNTRIES.

D. FEBRUARY 16 GUNAYDIN AND AYRINTILI HVSER ONRO GENTLY CARRIED INTERVIEWS BY EMIN IBRAHIMOGLU WITH DEMOCRATIC REPRESENTATIVES PAUL SARBANES AND JOHN BRANDEMAS, LEADERS OF THE "GREEK LOBBY" IN CONGRESS.XOTH UNCLASSIFIED

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PAPERS HEADLINED THAT IF A DEMOCRATIC PRESIDENT WERE ELECTED, HE WOULD SUPPORT A NEW CONGRESSIONAL EMBARGO OF AMERICAN ARMS TO TURKEY.

E. IN FEBRUARY 16 MILLIYET, SAMI KOHEN REPORTED FROM WASHINGTON DEVELOPMENTS IN CONGRESS CONCERNING MILITARY ASSISTANCE TO TURKEY. ACCORDING TO KOHEN, DIFFERING BILLS PREPARED BY SENATOR HUMPHREY AND REPRESENTATIVE THOMAS MORGAN WOULD HAVE TO BE RECONCILED IN A SENATE-HOUSE CON-

ERENCE. KOHEN NOTED THAT AMBASSADOR MACOMBER WAS IN WASHINGTON ASSISTING THE FORD ADMINISTRATION IN ITS EFFORTS WITH CONGRESS.

F. ON FEBRUARY 16 VARIOUS PAPERS CARRIED AN INTERVIEW REPORTEDLY GIVEN BY DEPUTY PRIMIN FEYZIOGLU (REPUBLICAN RELIANCE PARTY) TO THE NEW YORK TIMES. NOTING THAT "AN ARMS EMBARGO WAS INCOMPATIBLE WITH A DEFENSE ALLIANCE", FEYZIOGLU SAID THAT IF TURKISH-AMERICAN RELATIONS CONTINUED TO BE MIXED UP WITH THE CYPRUS PROBLEM, THEN "BOTH THE CYPRUS PROBLEM'S SOLUTION WOULD BE MADE MORE DIFFICULT AND TURKISH-AMERICAN RELATIONS WOULD CONTINUE TO WORSEN". FEYZIOGLU ASKED "WHERE WERE THOSE WHO TODAY CRITICIZE TURKEY?" WHEN IN 1967 12,000 GREEK TROOPS "ARMED WITH AMERICAN WEAPONS" WERE "OPPRESSING TURKISH VILLAGES AND TYRANNIZING THE TURKISH COMMUNITY".

2. THE PRESS ALSO CONTINUED COVERAGE OF NEWS RELATED TO MUSTAFA CEMILOGLU, CRIMENA TURK WHO DIED IN A RECENT HUNGER STRIKE PROTEST AGAINST SOVIET POLICY. ON FEBRUARY 16 CONSERVATIVE SON HAVADIS REPORTED THAT JUSTICE PARTY SENATOR DEMIRYUCE (ZHAGULDAK) HAD BEGUN A FIVE-DAY HUNGER STRIKE IN MEMORY OF CEMILOGLU. IN ITS INSIDE PAGES SON HAVADIS REPORTED ON THE STATUS OF TURKIC MINORITY GROUPS IN THE SOVIET UNION, PARTICULARLY THE CRIMEAN TURKS.

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